

PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL.

Consultations with L.E.A. Sub-committee 147 plane 36

REPORT OF MEETING HELD BETWEEN COMMITTEES SENT BY THE

LOCAL EDUCATION AUTHORITY, WESTMORLAND

and

CHARLOTTE MASON FOUNDATION

at

AMBLESIDE on 13th DECEMBER, 1958.

=====

L.E.A. COMMITTEE.

MR. CLARKE	Director of Education for Westmorland.
MR. ELLISON	Chairman of Education Committee.
MR. DOBELL	Vice-Chairman.
ARCHDEACON BULLEY	Vicar of Ambleside.
LORD STOPFORD	was prevented by illness from attending.

C.M.F. COMMITTEE.

MRS. WALTON	Chairman of the Charlotte Mason Foundation.
SIR CLEMENT JONES	Vice-Chairman.
MISS HARDCASTLE	Principal of the Charlotte Mason College.
MR. KNOWLES	Representative of The University of Manchester.
BISHOP BROOK	was prevented by illness from attending.
MISS LAMBERT	was unable to attend.

A G E N D A

Headings for an Agenda were drawn up as under

Principles	Accommodation	Property
Time Factor	Governing Body	

It was agreed from the beginning that as a definite approach, approved by the Charlotte Mason Foundation, had been made, all these points must be duly considered, bearing in mind that matters were still in the stage of negotiations and that nothing could be finally settled.

1. PRINCIPLES.

If the L.E.A. took over the responsibility for the administration of the College, they tell us that it would be taken over as a going concern. It must be remembered that the University of Manchester is responsible for approval of the curriculum of the College. Although the course would in any case have to be adapted to meet the requirements of the compulsory 3-year course beginning in September, 1960, there should be no need for any drastic alteration in terms of curriculum or school practice.

The first point put to the L.E.A. under this heading was a direct question concerning the position of students when they have finished their training. Would they be allowed, as now, to choose to go into P.N.E.U. schools or into L.E.A. schools? The position is clear. The Director of Education read from a letter that he had received from the Ministry of Education, that they could not support, with public money, a college whose policy would be to train students specifically for a certain kind of private school, although individuals would be free to choose to go to independent schools if they wished to do so.

It is important for us of the Charlotte Mason Foundation to realise that this would be no new thing. In actual practice the situation would be very much the same as it had been since the College was recognised.

The impression we all gained was that, far from wishing to restrict our ideas and practices, the Director would welcome them.

2. TIME FACTOR.

The need for urgent action was recognised by everyone because of the time-table necessarily set by the beginning of the compulsory 3-year course in September, 1960. Most colleges have already sent in their estimates for expansion and new needs based on the present emergency caused by the shortage of teachers.

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2. (Continued)

From our side, it was obvious from the Treasurer's Budget Estimate, that we could not count on being solvent much after July 1959, and it was important that the difficult transition stage (which would take at least a year) should be over before the new 3-year course, with its demands for a higher academic standard, began.

Mr. Clarke thought that it should be possible for the College to become grant-aided by September, 1959, recognising that the first year difficulties of adjustment would necessitate give and take on both sides.

It was agreed that 120 was the maximum number of students - almost double our present number - which could be accommodated eventually. This would mean 40 students a year. (At present the number varies between 22 and 24). It would therefore be desirable to start with 40 new students in September, 1959. This would necessitate letting the Training Colleges Clearing House and Heads of Schools know as soon as possible that the College was to become grant-aided. This would encourage more and, we hope, abler students to apply.

3. ACCOMMODATION.

It was agreed that Mr. Clarke should visit the College for a whole day on December 19th to inspect accommodation in the various houses, and discuss the matter fully with Miss Hardcastle. A summary of accommodation and a copy of the H.M. Inspectors' Report on the College had already been sent to the Director at his request.

It was felt that for the entire Committee to make a tour of inspection then and there, would serve no useful purpose. The matter was therefore left to Miss Hardcastle and Mr. Clarke to go into ways and means.

4. PROPERTY.

Members of the Committee (from C.M.F.) had examined the Memorandum and Articles of Association.

There are two possible courses which might be taken:-

1. To sell the property outright. This might present difficulties for several reasons, one being the mortgage on the property and another being the difficulty of disentangling that portion of the property which would still belong to the Charlotte Mason Foundation for the School and the Parents' Union School.
2. To let the property to the Local Education Authority. According to page 3, sub-para. N, and page 6, para. 9 of the Memorandum of the Association, there should not be any insuperable difficulty in following either course of action.

Members of the L.E.A. Committee said they felt that the Charlotte Mason Foundation should put a definite proposition to the L.E.A. concerning this.

It was thought that the next stage should be worked out by solicitors, and I am asking Mr. Brownson to look into this.

5. GOVERNING BODY.

A governing body would need to be established of, say, fifteen members, roughly in the proportion of 9 nominations from the L.E.A., 4 from the C.M.F. and 2 from Manchester. The Chairman made it clear that all L.E.A. nominations would not necessarily be for people on their Education Committee, but that a number nominated might be of individuals in the district. It was also indicated that the Governing Body would exist chiefly to deal with matters of finance.

The question of the appointment of future Principals of the College was brought up. Any nominations from our representatives would have an equal chance with other nominations, in actual practice, probably more chance, as the L.E.A. would not willingly wish to change the tradition of the College, at the same time, we must remember that the standard to be set will necessarily be as high as possible

M. G. WALTON.

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Report of Meeting held between Committees sent by the
Local Education Authority, Westmorland
and
Charlotte Mason Foundation
at
Ambleside on 13th December, 1958.

L.E.A. Committee.

Mr. Clarke	Director of Education for Westmorland.
Mr. Ellison	Chairman of Education Committee.
Mr. Dobell	Vice-chairman.
Archdeacon Bulley	Vicar of Ambleside.
Lord Stopford	was prevented by illness from attending.

C.M.F. Committee.

Mrs. Walton	Chairman of the Charlotte Mason Foundation.
Sir Clement Jones	Vice-chairman.
Miss Hardcastle	Principal of the Charlotte Mason College.
Mr. Knowles	Representative of Manchester University School of Education.
Bishop Brook	was prevented by illness from attending.
Miss Lambert	was unable to attend.

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A G E N D A

Headings for an Agenda were drawn up as under

Principles	Accommodation	Property
Time Factor	Governing Body	

It was agreed from the beginning that as this was a definite approach, approved by the Charlotte Mason Foundation, all these points must be duly considered, on the assumption that something might (would) come of it, but bearing in mind that all matters were still in the stage of negotiations and that nothing could be finally settled.

Time Factor.

The need for urgent action was recognized by everyone because of the time-table necessarily set by the beginning of the compulsory 3 - year course in September, 1960. Most colleges have already sent in their estimates for expansion and new needs based on the present emergency caused by the shortage of teachers.

From our side, it was obvious from the Treasurer's Budget Estimate, that we could not count on being solvent much after July 1959, and it was important that the difficult transition stage (which would take at least a year) should be over before the new 3 - year course, with its demands for a higher academic standard, began.

Mr. Clarke thought that it should be possible for the college to become grant-aided by September, 1959, recognising that the first year difficulties of adjustment would necessitate give and take on both sides.

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It was thought that the next stage should be worked out by solicitors, and I am asking Mr. Brownson to look into this.

Transfer of Administration to the
 Local Authority.

The Special Sub-Committee met Representatives of the Council of the Charlotte Mason Foundation at the College on Saturday, December 10th, 1958.

There were present, for the Sub-Committee, Mr. W. Ellison, Mr. K. Debell and the Archdeacon of Westmorland, with the Director of Education. The Chairman and two other members, together with the Principal, Miss Hardscastle, represented the Council of the Foundation.

1. General Situation.

It was agreed that whilst the Education Authority and the College Council had both agreed in principle to negotiate for the transfer of the administration of the College, neither was yet fully committed, and final agreement would depend on the progress of the negotiations both between the two bodies represented at this meeting and with the Manchester School of Education and the Ministry of Education.

It was agreed further that negotiations with the school of Education and the Ministry should be continued on the basis of the agreement reached at this meeting, so that the views of the four bodies concerned could be co-ordinated towards a final settlement.

2. The Question of Timing.

Since there had been an agreement to negotiate, and since the matter was already becoming public, with consequent unsettlement of staffs, etc., it was agreed that the transfer, if it took place, should take place as soon as possible, and preferably in September 1959. This would mean that the Training Colleges Clearing House would have to be informed fairly early in the year concerning the grant-aiding of students and their entry to the College.

3. Accommodation.

It was agreed that a figure of 120 (i.e., 40 students in each year of a three-year course) should be aimed at. This was about the minimum which could be effectively and economically staffed, but it could not be increased without putting too great a burden on the schools within reach for school practice.

In the present second year there are 22 students, and in the first year 25. If 40 were taken in September, the total would then be 87. It was stated on behalf of the College that probably one of the buildings now used for boarders at Fairfield School could be released in September 1959 and this additional accommodation, together with perhaps the boarding out of a few students in the town, would make it just possible to take 87 students in September 1959.

Certain deficiencies in the accommodation as it is at present have been shown in the recent report of H.M. Inspectors. Although it were possible to deal with a figure of 87 in September, 1959, within the present buildings, and with the addition of one boarding house from the school, it would not be possible to deal with another entry of 40 in September 1960 without building or substantial alteration. Two more sections of the school accommodation could be put at the disposal of the College in September 1960 and September 1961. These could bring the accommodation for students' living

rooms up to just under 100. It would then be necessary by September 1961 (when the maximum of 120 is reached) to find accommodation for something over 20 students, together with improved dining and kitchen accommodation, and also more adequate and better equipped teaching accommodation, especially for practical subjects.

It was agreed that the Director of Education should spend a day at the College in the near future and try to reach, with the Principal, an outline scheme of what extra building or alteration would be necessary for the College at its full size of 120.

4. Property.

The Education Committee Representatives stated that they were willing to consider proposals from the Council concerning terms for the transfer of the property to the Education Authority, or its use by the Authority. It was left to the Council to formulate such proposals, since the Council has other interests beside the College and would presumably wish to consider very carefully the future of the building.

5. Principles.

It was made clear, from the point of view of the Education Committee members, that if the College were transferred it would become fully a member of the national system of colleges for the training of teachers and would not be able to retain as one of its aims the training of teachers for independent schools (though, of course, in the case of individual students the same degree of choice would be allowed as applies already in other Training Colleges).

It was made clear, further, that although there would be unlikely to be any immediate interference with the principles of teaching on which the College training is based, nevertheless the Local Education Authority would be under no obligation to maintain these principles, nor in appointments to the staff could there be any question of restricting the choice to people professing such principles.

6. Governing Body.

It was agreed that although there would be no obligation upon the L.E.A. to set up a Governing Body, the L.E.A. would almost certainly wish to do so and to delegate heavy responsibilities for the running of the College to the Governing Body.

A suggested Constitution was a total body of fifteen, made up as to nine to be appointed by the L.E.A., two by the Manchester School of Education and four by the Council.

The Special Sub-Committee appointed to negotiate about the transfer of the administration of the Charlotte Mason Training College to the Local Authority, met at the College on Saturday, March 14th, 1959.

There were present, for the Sub-Committee, Mr. K. Dobell and Mr. W. Ellison, together with three members of the College Council, the Principal of the College and the Director of Education.

The meeting considered a resolution of the College Council, which took the question of transfer a stage further, and a letter from the Ministry of Education and a visit by the Director of Education to the Ministry, which made it clear that the Ministry would insist upon such conditions at the time of the transfer as would make it impossible to complete arrangements for the transfer in September 1959.

The following points were agreed:-

1. That September, 1960, be the date aimed at for the transfer of administration.
 2. That it be noted that although the Ministry will insist that the college is not a permanent part of the training college provision of the country, nevertheless it would be likely to be about ten years before the question of closure were raised, and even then if the college were at that time running successfully, it would be unlikely that closure would be pressed.
 3. Consequent upon the above, the Ministry would be unwilling that the premises should be bought, and the College Council also would prefer to lease them.
 4. The Ministry will not agree to a major building project for the college. It is therefore impossible to build a hostel in addition to the other alterations which will have to be done, and the question of lodging in the town is to be examined carefully by the Principal, so that the numbers can eventually reach about 120.
 5. The Ministry will allow a minor project (i.e., alterations and renovations up to a limit of £20,000), and it was agreed that the modernisation of the kitchens should be the first call on any money available. It was agreed that the County Architect should be asked, so soon as he has staff available, to prepare a plan and schedule of the present buildings and proposals for improvements within the limits set by the Ministry.
 6. It was noted that before agreeing to the transfer the Ministry wished to have further discussion on the staffing and curriculum-organisation of the college. It was agreed that the Director of Education should first consult with Dr. Wiseman at the Manchester School of Education and then approach the Ministry concerning a meeting on this matter.
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REPORT OF THE MEETING BETWEEN THE 2 SPECIAL SUB-COMMITTEES
REPRESENTING THE LOCAL EDUCATION AUTHORITY, WESTMORLAND,
AND THE CHARLOTTE MASON FOUNDATION, HELD AT THE COLLEGE ON
SATURDAY, MARCH 14th, 1959.

For L.E.A. The Director of Education, Mr. Clarke;
Mr. K. Dobell and Mr. W. Ellison.

For C.M.F. Miss Hardcastle and Mrs. Walton.
Bishop Brook; Mr. V. Knowles.
Sir Clement Jones and Miss Lambert
were unable to attend.

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We had hoped to be able to give you further news, but up to the time of sending this off, nothing further had come in.

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PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

THE CHARLOTTE MASON FOUNDATION

A Meeting of the Council of the Charlotte Mason Foundation was held at 2.15 p.m. on Tuesday, the 8th March, 1960, in Room 4, Church House, Westminster, S.W.1.

MINUTES

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Mrs. Walton	-	In the Chair.
Miss Essex Cholmondeley			Mr. B. Marsden-Smedley.
Very Rev. Dr. Costley-White			Mr. B.G. Martineau.
Mrs. D.L. Eslemon			Mr. J.W.F. Morton
The Hon. Mrs. Franklin			Lady Elizabeth Motion.
Mr. M.A.E. Franklin			Mr. R. Petrie.
Mr. D.H. Joss	Mr. Vincent Knowles		Lady A.H. Reid
Miss M.C.M. Lambert			Miss H.E. Wix
Miss Mary Hardcastle		-	In attendance
Miss J. C. Cochrane		-	In attendance
Mrs. L. Clarke		-	Secretary.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE were received from Lady Brabourne, Bishop Brook, Mrs. V. Campbell, Miss B.M. Goode, Miss D.M. Moore and Mrs. West-Russell. ^{Misses Mary} It was suggested and agreed unanimously by the Council that a letter should be sent to Lady Brabourne expressing the condolences of Members of the Council to Lady Brabourne ^{on} her recent ~~and loss~~ ^{bereavement}.

2. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING.

The Minutes of the last Meeting held on Wednesday, the 11th November, 1959, at Church House, having been circulated, were taken as read. Miss Wix asked about the new prospectus for the College and was informed that this could not be finally dealt with until after consultation with the Local Authority when the present negotiations were completed. Miss Hardcastle referred to letters of appreciation she has received from prospective students expressing their approval of the present prospectus.

In reply to a question the Principal said that to date she had received no objections to the prospective raising of the fees. ^{by Parents} She also informed the Council that arrangements had been made with several schools in Lancashire for the students to receive practical training.

The Minutes were then signed by the Chairman.

3. ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES.

There was nothing arising out of the Minutes.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to report.

5. FINANCE

The Hon. Treasurer informed the Council that there had been an anticipated ^a loss of about £2,700 for the year ending August 31st, 1960. In the meantime, however, the Bursar had made a new estimate for possible income and expenditure and it was now thought that the loss would be about £2,000. There would be a rise in the income from College ^{due to increases in} fees but, owing to the closing of the senior school, a loss in the fees from Fairfield.

He also reported that there had been some discussion on repairs to be carried out and it had been decided to do all repairs necessary that would have been carried out in the normal way had the College not been taken over in September, 1960, but that no additional repairs will of course be done. There was a short discussion on those repairs thought to be necessary to be carried out immediately. This included the complete re-wiring of Fairfield ~~which should urgently be done.~~

It was decided to entrust Mr. Morton and Mr. Petrie to conduct all negotiations for repairs, etc., on behalf of the Council. ~~who could refer back to the Council if necessary and the Chairman expressed her willingness to be consulted by telephone if required.~~

^{Then} The Treasurer then reported that it had been suggested that the Council may wish to buy 4 cottages in Ambleside, two of which are already rented by the Council. The price quoted had been £5,000 which seemed rather excessive and it was suggested that before any negotiations were carried out the Local Authority should be consulted to see whether they were interested. Mr. Marsden-Smedley ^{proposed a resolution} ~~resolved that~~ negotiations should be put in hand with the Local Authority to cover the cost of borrowing the money at 6 per cent plus a Sinking Fund, to have the result of allowing the Council to own the property free of encumbrances in 21 years. This was seconded by Mrs. Franklin and

passed unanimously.

6. TO RECEIVE MISS COCHRANE'S REPORT ON THE PARENTS' UNION SCHOOL (CIRCULATED)

Miss Cochrane reported on her visit to Qatar and Bahrain. She had been very impressed with all she saw and had visited the schools and talked to parents and teachers. Children were accepted to the age of 9 only.

There was a short discussion on the P.N.E.U. methods in use in these places.

The adoption of Miss Cochrane's Report was proposed by Miss Cholmondeley, seconded by Mr. Norton and passed unanimously.

7. TO RECEIVE MISS HARDCASTLE'S REPORT ON THE CHARLOTTE MASON COLLEGE AND FAIRFIELD (CIRCULATED)

In reply to a question the Principal explained what was meant by "a basic course". She said the basic course is designed with the individual in mind rather more than the future ~~the~~ ^{work of} ~~students~~ ^{students}.

Mr. Hardcastle reported that she had no further news of a history lecturer but she would be advertising again after Easter.

After discussion it was agreed that the Hon. Treasurer should discuss the question of renovations with Mr. Brownson, the Solicitor.

The Chairman said she felt it was a very important thing to remember that, although the senior school was being closed, it was not just petering out but was carrying on in the same way and the ^{until the end of} ~~summer the summer term~~ junior school was of course doing very well. She asked the Principal to convey the thanks of the Council to Miss Wharton and Miss Mumford.

The adoption of Miss Hardcastle's Report was proposed by Dr. Costley-White, seconded by Miss Wix and passed unanimously.

8. TO CONSIDER FAIRFIELD AND ITS FUTURE.

9. REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE CALLED TO CONSIDER THE MERGER OF THE P.U.S. AND THE P.N.E.U. (Circulated)

It was decided to take these two points together.

It was felt to be a great pity to split the College from the school entirely after the College was taken over by the Local Authority. Certain ways were suggested of using the school although, of course,

it would no longer be a practising school. There would still be a strong link between the College and the school. There was a discussion as to whether Fairfield would be able to pay for itself when it was no longer a practising school and Miss Wix felt that it was most important that the school should continue to show the students the Charlotte Mason methods.

Mr. Maraden-Smedley wanted to put everything under one leadership - the P.M.E.U., the P.U.S. and the C.M.F. There was a discussion on whether it should be offered to the Charlotte Mason Schools Association.

The Principal ^{agreed} suggested that the school should be allowed to continue in existence for a year or two to see the result. Mr. Petrie gave the financial side of the question and said that, provided the school was full, there should be a profit of some £500. It must be remembered, however, that during the first year there would not be a full ^{probably} school.

Dr. Costley-White said the school should go on as it was and that the Foundation should still continue to be responsible for it.

~~The Chairman then declared the Meeting open for general discussion.~~

Mr. Maraden-Smedley did not agree that Fairfield was essential to the College. Mr. Joss suggested that in future the Headmistress should report to the Council on the school as Miss Hardcastle had done in the past.

Dr. Costley-White moved that Fairfield should be retained as it is and that the situation should be reviewed in a year's time from September, 1960, and that every effort should be made to encourage and strengthen its position. This was seconded by Lady Reid and passed with one ~~against~~ ^{dissentient}.

There was then a discussion on the possible merger. Mr. Joss said he thought that negotiations with the Local Education Authority should be concluded first and the Chairman reminded the Council that this had in fact been minuted at the last Meeting. There was ^{further} then a long discussion on the possible merger. Mr. Maraden-Smedley

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felt that this was a matter of great urgency for the future of the P.N.E.U.

With regard to the suggestion in the report that Mr. Petrie be invited to be Honorary Treasurer of the proposed combined Company, Mr. Petrie felt that he would not be the best person for this position as he was not in London and he felt it would be for the best if he continued merely as Honorary Treasurer to the Council.

After a very long discussion on the report of the Committee called to consider the merger, the following proposal was put forward by Mr. Franklin; that this meeting should accept the recommendation made by the Special Committee with the exception possibly of No.4, and that there should be one Solicitor for both bodies - the firm of Messrs. Ranger Barton & Frost. This was seconded by Mr. Joss and passed with 10 in favour, 2 against and 2 abstentions.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS - BY LEAVE

The Chairman asked whether the council would agree to the Principal having leave of absence for *one month* with full pay *+£75.* ~~as she had recently been ill.~~ This was agreed.

The Deed relating to the septic tank and line of pipes at the Charlotte Mason College which were situated on land belonging to Mr. M.G.H. Fleming was duly sealed by the Council and signed by the Chairman and Secretary. This Deed allowed for the retention of the tank and pipes in their present position, the Council paying to Mr. Fleming a yearly rent of £2. 0. Od.

11. DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

It was decided to hold the next meeting of the Council on Saturday the 9th July 1960 at 10 a.m. at the Charlotte Mason College, Ambleside

Signed.....

Chairman.

Date.....